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word. mucosa wherein said matrix induces restoration of cardiac tissue when placed in contact with diseased, damaged, or defective cardiac tissue.

2. (Amended) The matrix of claim 1 wherein said matrix is custom-shaped to conform to said diseased, damaged, or defective cardiac tissue.

3. (Amended) The matrix of claim 1 wherein said matrix comprises an injectable form of matrix.

4. (Amended) The matrix of claim 1 wherein said matrix further comprises a pharmaceutical agent.

5. (Amended) The matrix of claim 1 wherein said cardiac tissue is at least a portion of a cardiac valve.

a² 6. (Amended) The matrix of claim 1 wherein said matrix restores or replaces at least a portion of the interatrial septum.

7. (Amended) The devitalized matrix of claim 1 wherein said cardiac tissue is at least a portion of the interventricular septum.

8. (Amended) The devitalized matrix of claim 1 wherein said cardiac tissue is at least a portion of the myocardium.

9. (Amended) A method for inducing restoration of cardiac tissue in a mammal, said method, comprising:

contacting a matrix comprising at least a portion of mammalian epithelial basement membrane and tunica propria subjacent to said basement membrane with diseased, defective, or damaged cardiac tissue, wherein said matrix induces restoration of cardiac tissue.

11. (Amended) A composition, comprising:

a³ at least a portion of devitalized epithelial basement membrane and tunica propria of a mucosa delaminated from a mammalian epithelial tissue and shaped to conform to diseased, damaged, or defective cardiac tissue.

12. (Amended) The composition of claim 11 further comprising submucosa.

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ord. 13 ¹² (Amended) The composition of claim 12 further comprising muscle cells of the tunica muscularis.

a⁴ 18. (Amended) The composition of claim 13 wherein said diseased, damaged, or defective cardiac tissue comprises at least a portion of a cardiac valve.

a⁵ 20. (Amended) The composition of claim 13 wherein said diseased, damaged, or defective cardiac tissue comprises myocardium.

Please cancel claims 3 and 4.

Please add the following new claims 21-30.

21. (New) A matrix, comprising:

a devitalized mammalian epithelial basement membrane and tunica propria immediately subjacent to said basement membrane derived from the mucosa of the intestine wherein said matrix induces restoration of healthy cardiac tissue when placed in contact with diseased, defective, or damaged cardiac tissue.

22. (New) The matrix of claim 21 wherein said matrix is custom-shaped to conform to said diseased, defective, or damaged cardiac tissue.

a⁶ 23. (New) The matrix of claim 21 wherein said matrix comprises an injectable form of matrix.

24. (New) The matrix of claim 21 wherein said matrix further comprises a pharmaceutical agent.

25. (New) The matrix of claim 21 wherein said cardiac tissue is at least a portion of a cardiac valve.

26. (New) The matrix of claim 21 wherein said matrix restores or replaces at least a portion of the interatrial septum.

27. (New) The matrix of claim 21 wherein said cardiac tissue is at least a portion of the interventricular septum.

28. (New) The matrix of claim 21 wherein said cardiac tissue is at least a portion of the myocardium.

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ord.
29. (New) The matrix of claim 1 wherein said cardiac tissue is custom-shaped to conform to missing cardiac tissue.

30. (New) The matrix of claim 21 wherein said matrix is custom-shaped to conform to missing cardiac tissue.

REMARKS

At the outset, Applicant wishes to thank Examiner Witz for her thoughtful comments during a telephonic interview with Applicant's undersigned representative on April 25, 2002.

Status of the Claims

Upon entry of this paper, claims 1, 2 and 5-30 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 2, 5-11, 13-15, 18 and 20 are amended, claims 3 and 4 are canceled, and new claims 21-30 are introduced. Applicant believes that no new matter is introduced by the claim amendments or the new claims. Support for the claim amendments and new claims may be found throughout the application as originally-filed.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter Applicant regards as the invention. The amendments to independent claims 1 and 11 should satisfy the Examiner's concerns in this regard.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims, 1, 2, 6, 8-10, 13 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,336,616 to Livesey et al. (hereinafter "Livesey"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections to the extent they are maintained over the claims as amended.

Amended independent claim 1 and depending claims 2, 6, and 8-10 are directed to a matrix comprising a devitalized mammalian epithelial basement membrane and tunica propria derived from urinary bladder mucosa for inducing restoration of cardiac tissue when placed in contact with diseased, damaged, or defective cardiac tissue.